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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Vancouver metro

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Sunday, March 5
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Saturday, March 18
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Saturday, April 1
7 p.m.
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Friday, April 14
7 p.m.
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Saturday, May 20
4 p.m.
BC Place

Saturday, May 27
4 p.m.
BC Place

Saturday, June 3
2:30 p.m.
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Saturday, June 17
7 p.m.
BC Place

Wednesday, July 5
7 p.m.
BC Place

Sunday, July 23
3 p.m.
BC Place

Saturday, August 19
7 p.m.
BC Place

Wednesday, August 23
7 p.m.
BC Place

Saturday, September 9
7 p.m.
BC Place

Wednesday, September 13
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Saturday, September 16
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Saturday, September 23
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Trudeau enters Trump's bunker
metroNEWS metroVIEWS

'You are in danger of being caught'

Metro meets asylum-seekers from Trump's America, as B.C. joins other provinces seeing a refugee influx metroNEWS

A LOVE LETTER TO OUR CITY

SFU robots make long-distance relationships more bearable

Mixing science, art and alcohol

Happy Valentine's metroNEWS

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STUDY

Robot technology helps long-distance couples

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

A long-distance couple plan to have a romantic dinner Tuesday for Valentine's Day, but it won't be in person — it will be done with the help of a robot and technology created at Simon Fraser University.

SFU professor Dr. Carman Neustaedter and his research team conducted a study where people communicate to their loved one in another country through a mobile telepresence robot, made by Suitable Technologies. In Tuesday's case, the study participant will sit at the dinner table with the robot, which will be controlled by their romantic partner.

It's a vastly different experience from communicating via video call, said Neustaedter, who teaches at SFU's School of Interactive Art and Technology.

"We're finding the ability to actually move in a remote space adds this huge difference that makes you feel like you are much more present in the location."

Controlling the robot is simple, and can be done via keyboard and mouse or with an Xbox controller. But the technology is not a game, warned Neustaedter — it has real-life effects on relationships.

"It shifts relationship dynamics a bit to empower both people," he said, pointing out that in a Skype or Facetime call, the local person is able to position the webcam wherever he or she wants. The robot changes that and even allows the remote person to interact with the local environment.

Neustaedter says the feedback from couples in the study, who each spent a month with the robot, has been promising.

"It's been really positive. We've tested all of these technologies to understand whether they increase people's sense of social presence — the sense that your partner is in the same room, or right next to you," he explained.

"All of them say yes, it creates a stronger presence."

Neustaedter's research team is also working on VR software that blends two people's views together — so that people feel like they are standing in the other person's shoes, and also a pair of gloves where one transmits 'touch' to the other.

The idea is each person in a long-distance relationship would wear one glove. When one person moves their gloved hand, the other person would feel that movement from their glove. But lovesick couples won't find this technology in stores anytime soon, its still in the research phase and a company would have to pick it up, said Neustaedter.

"I'd love to see this stuff for sale, because I think it really adds something to long-distance relationships," he said.

A member of the team demonstrates the glove. SFU/CONTRIBUTED

Kristi Leigh-Akister from The Union makes a Clarified Ardbeg Punch at the Science of Cocktails event on Feb. 9. ABBY WISEMAN/METRO

The science and art of cocktails

FUNDRAISING

Bartenders come together to support education

Abby Wiseman
For Metro | Vancouver

The Science of Cocktails night held at Science World is where three of my favourite things came together — science, art and alcohol.

Fourteen hundred people — no kids — packed into Science World for a chance to sample some of the most interesting cocktails around created by 56 bartenders from Vancouver and beyond.

Anything goes at the Science of Cocktails, and my particular favourites were the Whisky Ice Cream from Pidgin — it had a serious whisky bite — the gin and tonic popcorn made with dry ice, and the Clarified Ardbeg Milk Punch created by Kristi Leigh-Akister from The Union.

Leigh-Akister attended the event last year and was so inspired by the creativity of her peers that she volunteered to participate this year.

"There is an intrinsic relationship between science and the craft cocktail culture and having the opportunity to use techniques that aren't typical is really exciting to me," says Leigh-Akister.

> **"There is an intrinsic relationship between science and the craft cocktail culture."**
> Kristi Leigh-Akister

"Ultimately, we are here for one reason and that's to raise funds for Science World's field trip program."

As much fun as it is to dive into a wine daiquiri or watch expert bartenders shake, stir and blend their concoctions, the night was for a cause.

Proceeds for the event go to the Science World Class Field Trip Program, which helps thousands of students from underserved schools in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland to experience Science World for free. I will drink to that.

Enjoying a cocktail with 1,400 of my fellow Vancouverites, watching a science show I haven't seen since I was doing field trips and learning something new about mixology is a great way to spend an evening.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

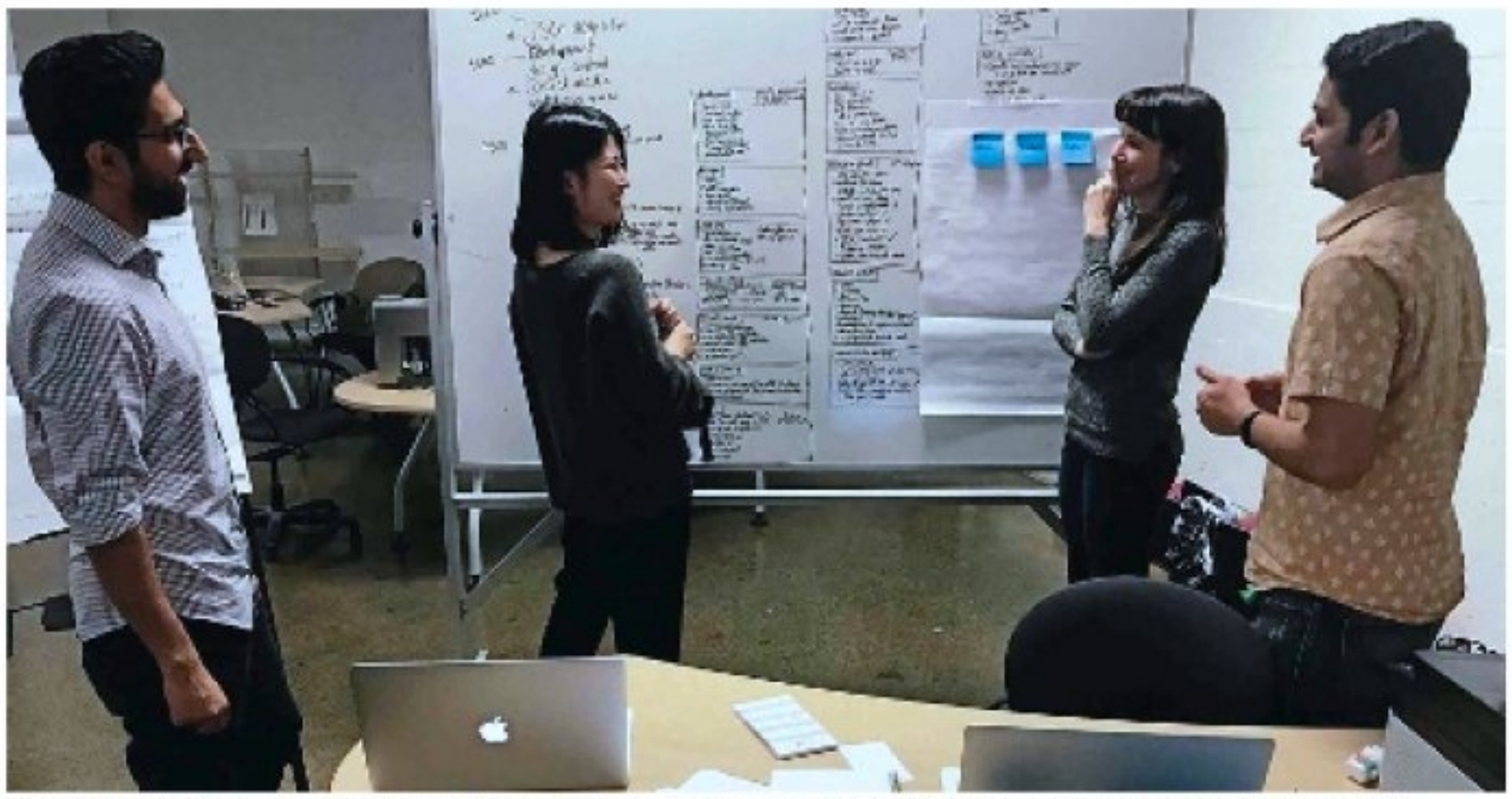
Valentine's Day banned in Pakistani capital of Islamabad. **World**

Startup to launch rental app for share economy

INNOVATION

Quupe aims to connect lenders with borrowers

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver



From left, co-founders Zeeshan Rasool, Amanda Shou, Angela Hamilton and Vijay Rama-swamy brainstorm ideas for the launch of their sharing-economy app, Quupe, which aims to help people lend and borrow things. CONTRIBUTED

Where can you rent a snowboard for $13 a day? From your neighbour, of course — and with the help of a share-economy app called Quupe.

The Vancouver startup aims to connect people who have rarely used equipment gathering dust in a storage locker with people who don't want to bite the bullet on a snowblower or kayak.

"We are, on average, 30 to 40 per cent cheaper than a bricks-and-mortar [rental] place," said co-founder Angela Hamilton.

"We wanted to make an app that would allow people to lend and borrow things. That's the philosophical drive behind it — this desire to connect people who want good stuff."

The app comes with a 'rent calculator' that comes up with a dollar amount depending on age, condition and original sale price of the item. "Nobody really wants to get into the haggling that you have to do when you're on Craigslist," said Hamilton.

It's one of several features Hamilton and the other three co-founders hope will convince people to adopt the share-economy lifestyle, a change that may appear daunting at first, she acknowledged.

"We know we are asking for a behaviour change here. We want to find different ways to make it as easy as possible for the user."

There is no membership fee for Quupe — people can list goods and rent them on the app for free — and the company makes money by charging a 20 per cent fee on all transactions.

But the app needs at least 10,000 users to become sustainable, estimates Hamilton.

That's the goal following their launch date on Feb. 28. The app is currently in its beta-testing phase with 430 users but people are able to sign up and start using it right away.

Hamilton, who is originally from the U.S., says the team is focusing its initial efforts on recruiting people in young neighbourhoods like Mount Pleasant and Commercial Drive.

The multinational team — Hamilton's co-founders are from China, India and Pakistan — plan to launch the app worldwide if it proves successful in Vancouver.

Quupe received support from UBC Sauder School of Business's social innovator hub, called S3i, where they received mentorship, attended workshops and gained help from business students.

"We've only been working with them for a little over a month but we've gotten so much value out of it. Overall we just feel very supported and very lucky to be part of the ecosystem," Hamilton said.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

$10M for job skills training

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia is hoping to curb staggeringly high indigenous unemployment by investing nearly $10 million in job skills training for 799 indigenous students in every region of the province, its higher education ministry announced Thursday.

The provincial government's pre-election announcement of 28 "community-based partnerships (to) link Aboriginal students to jobs" between First Nations and a number of universities was welcomed with supportive Twitter posts by many of the schools participating.

However, it is unclear how much of a dent the investment will make in high unemployment levels on the province's reserves. The B.C. funding works out to an average of $12,000 per student, and in the Thompson-Okanagan region — which hosts several large First Nations communities — the average was just $7,500 for each student.

Meanwhile, unemployment rates in First Nations in B.C. are nearly four times worse than for the province's non-indigenous residents, according to the most recent Aboriginal Economic Progress Report released in 2015. On-reserve unemployment stood at 27 per cent in B.C., according to the study, compared with just seven per cent for non-indigenous British Columbians.

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‘We call them our sisters’

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

March organizer explains why she’s been doing it since 1993

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Evelyne Youngchief remembers the first time she marched for fellow Indigenous women who disappeared.

It was Valentine’s Day 1993. The then 32-year-old had just dropped her son off at daycare in the Downtown Eastside when a group marched past, carrying banners bearing names of missing loved ones.

“I’d heard women talking about it in the women’s centre,” the Cree advocate, originally from a first nation near Edmonton, recalled in a phone interview.

“It was overwhelming because I knew that what they were doing meant a lot.

“I marched that day, I couldn’t go the entire way with them — just a few blocks — but it was really touching. The following year, it was a little bigger … It’s been a long road since.”

The march is held to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, with stops along the way to commemorate where women were last seen or found. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Years later, Youngchief is a member of the Women’s Memorial March Committee, a group of veteran women’s advocates who plan the annual event held every Feb. 14, led by families of those lost.

The RCMP estimates at least 1,200 Indigenous women have gone missing or been murdered in Canada, dozens if not hundreds of them in B.C.

Youngchief’s first march was the march’s third, and she believes she’s only missed six — including the one after she testified at the trial of serial killer Robert Pickton about her fellow Cree friend Georgina Papin, a writer, artist and mother of seven who disappeared at age 34 in 1999. Papin was one of the six women he was convicted of killing; the Crown dropped his 20 other murder charges.

> **That’s why I walk every Feb. 14, to remember them on a day of love.**
> Evelyne Youngchief

“Some of us have lost many sisters to violence,” Youngchief said. “Some are still missing, we don’t know where they are.

“I march because a lot of these women were my friends who died. So many in different ways — killed in hotel rooms, on Pickton’s farm, overdosing. I march for their kids and to support their families.”

This year’s march takes place during the worst drug overdose crisis in B.C. history, with 914 people killed last year, many linked to the deadly opiate fentanyl.

“This deadly drug is taking so many women very young,” she said. “Some are single moms being taken. Every time I go on Facebook, somebody else has passed away.

“Money is needed for treatment centres, especially also outside the downtown area. And we need a Downtown Eastside women’s Native health and wellness centre with our own healers — we’ve been fighting for that for over 30 years.

This year’s Women’s Memorial March will begin at noon on Tuesday at the corner of Main Street and Hastings Street, and end at Crab Park. Participants are asked not to bring their own signs out of respect for families of missing and murdered women.

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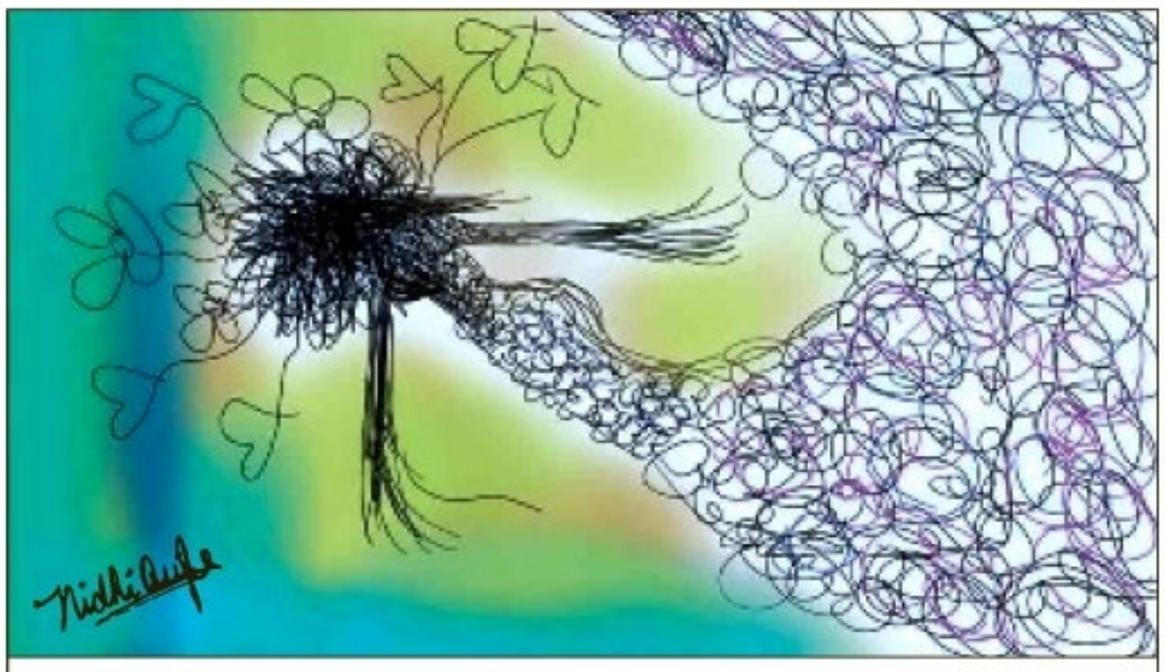

Niiberatchii is a doodle artist & street style photographer living in Delta, BC. You can order a limited edition post card or print of the *“love yourself”* art work (partial proceeds will go to United Way) by emailing her at: **niiberatchii@gmail.com**

If you are a local artist, or business or someone with an inspiring story and would like to share your story on her blog: **welcometowokestreet.blogspot.com** please contact: **niiberatchii@gmail.com**

Follow her on Instagram **@niiberatchii** to stay connected :)

Message from Nibz: **“Grow an inner garden of love, so you don’t have to worry if you fall” xoxo**
Happy Valentines Day! Be you with a pinch of sass.

Cherry blossoms in bloom along Charles Street in East Vancouver on March 23, 2016.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Make Vancouver your valentine

OPINION

It's been a long winter, but this city still deserves love

CITY HOLLER

Trish Kelly

I'll admit it's a hard time to be professing love for my city. The usual go-to reasons for loving Vancouver have been tarnished as of late; a real winter took away my balmy weather bragging rights with relatives in Ontario, two random murders on the seawall have taken the shine off of our civic treasure, and an ever-climbing number of my neighbours are being swallowed by the opioid overdose crisis.

But it's Valentine's Day, which is a day when we talk about love and eat chocolate, so I would like to do what I can to remind you of the reasons you moved here, or choose to stay here. This is my attempt to rekindle your romance with Vancouver.

Yes, we really had a winter this year. We had record-breaking amounts of snow, we got cranky with each other and now our hips hurt from tottering around like penguins for over four weeks. But the ice and snow are melting. The rain is washing away the dirty snowbanks, and I can already see some buds on the magnolia trees. Soon the cherry blossoms will bloom and shed such a flurry of petals, some of our roads will be pink. These are reasons to maintain your love for Vancouver.

If you are the type for whom commitment runs deep, you can love this city because Vancouver marches, no matter the weather. In January, 15,000 people marched past the Trump Tower for the Women's March. It's only Feb. 14 and already Vancouverites have marched to denounce Islamophobia, protest Trudeau's decision to abandon electoral reform, and resist Trump's immigration ban. Today people are marching to remember missing and murdered women. And in September, we'll walk to show our support for reconciliation. When we did that in 2013, the viaducts were blanketed by 70,000 people braving heavy rains.

You can keep loving Vancouver because it is home to vibrant First Nations, like the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish nations, who relentlessly speak up against tanker traffic and other forms of environmental damage our settler governments propose. And perhaps most admirably, these same First Nations find the strength and grace to partner with local governments in this fight, even though settler governments have for generations put profit before the health and environmental safety of this land.

> **Many of us have come from afar to make this our home.**

It's also fine to have a less serious love of Vancouver, and fan the flames of your crush on the dizzying array of microbrews, bicycles, and the lush greenness of our urban forest canopy.

And don't forget to love the people of Vancouver. Many of us have come from afar to make this our home, and all have delicious food traditions and interesting stories to share. Warts and all, there's still a lot to love about Vancouver.

Trish Kelly lives and eats chocolate in East Vancouver. Follow her on Twitter @trishkellyc.

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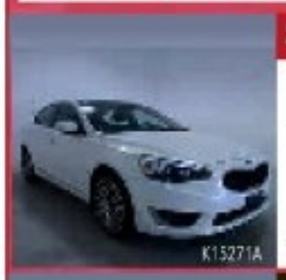

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Brave refugees escape to B.C. fearing deportation

MIGRATION

Metro sits down with a couple who crossed border

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Recently arrived in B.C., Honduran asylum-seekers Juan and Carmen, foreground, speak with immigrant and refugee advocates in downtown Vancouver on Friday. Metro agreed to not photograph the refugee claimants' faces because of threats they received back home. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

"You have to run. You run in danger of being caught," explained seven-months-pregnant Carmen, recalling how she and her spouse Juan came to B.C. by foot last week. "It was dark, there was a lot of snow; it was really cold."

After a harrowing journey through Guatemala and Mexico to escape terrifying threats from criminal gangs in their home country of Honduras, the couple and their now 11-year-old son José had found a good life in Boston.

But everything changed after the election of Donald Trump.

"Everything was going fine until President Trump was elected," said Juan, speaking through a translator in a Vancouver office (Metro agreed, for their safety, only to reveal the couple's given names). "Donald Trump said, 'When I'm the president, I'm going to (deport) so many millions of people.'"

> **Everything was going fine until President Trump was elected.**
> Juan, a Honduran who fled Central America for the U.S. before fleeing the States for Canada

Trump recently signed an executive order that aims to put some of his campaign promises into effect: deputizing law enforcement officers as immigration officials, threatening to cut federal funding to so-called "sanctuary cities" and building more detention facilities (as well as the infamous wall) along the Unites States-Mexico border.

Juan and Carmen's fear of deportation was heightened because Carmen is pregnant, her baby due in April. It's not uncommon in the United States for babies born in the country — and therefore American citizens — to be allowed to stay in the country in the care of friends or relatives while the parents are deported.

And the couple says they fear for their lives should they be deported back to Honduras: they say they will be targeted by the same criminal gangs who threatened to kill them before, because Carmen could no longer afford to pay a "war tax" on the house she owned.

Juan and Carmen chose British Columbia because they had heard it was a nice place with a lot of job opportunities. One night just over a week ago, the family crossed over a snowy field between the Washington and B.C. border.

Migrant support workers in the Lower Mainland have heard many stories like Juan and Carmen's lately. Just like the more well-known refugee claimants who have made their way to Emerson, Man., they're spurred by a fear of the new president. Juan and Carmen plan to start their Canadian refugee claim in the next few days. But Byron Cruz, a nurse with Sanctuary Health, says that when people call him from the United States, he tells them not to come to Canada.

He says they're safer in one of the United States' sanctuary cities: cities that have policies in place to ensure undocumented migrants have access to city services, and do not use municipal funds or resources to enforce federal immigration laws. While Canada's commitment to open immigration and refugee acceptance has been widely reported in American media, Cruz says that without more action, it's just words.

"Canada is not a safe country to come," Cruz said. Vancouver is not yet a Sanctuary City, he said, referring to policies adopted by the city. "It's not enough. People are not safe here because police report to immigration. In those Sanctuary Cities in the United States, the police do not report to immigration."

Cruz added that not all school districts in B.C. accept the children of undocumented migrants, a situation that has led to some children being removed from school.

IN BRIEF

Investigation into string of East Vancouver fires

Police are investigating three fires deliberately set in an East Vancouver neighbourhood early Monday morning.

Just after 1 a.m., residents near 29th Avenue and Inverness Street awoke to the sound of a fire at the back of their home. They escaped and called for help.

While at the scene, firefighters were called to a fire at nearby McBride Elementary School, and a third arson was attempted a block away from the school.

Call Vancouver police at 604-717-2962 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 with any information on the fires. JEFF HODSON/METRO

Dog avoids drowning thanks to police action

A dog is safe after falling into the still partly frozen Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park thanks to the quick thinking of a Vancouver police officer.

Residents called police after the dog chased a ball into the chilly water Friday afternoon, according to a written statement by Vancouver police. The officers who arrived on the scene saw that the dog was struggling to stay above water, and one of them, Const. Colenutt, made his way to the dog with a rescue line.

Photos posted on Twitter show the officer in the pond, making his way to shore with the dog. Another photo shows him walking across the snow to a police car in bare feet and a short-sleeved shirt.

"The dog and our officer were both pretty chilly, but thankfully okay," Vancouver police tweeted Saturday. WANYEE LI/METRO

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Welcome Place in need

ASYLUM

Non-profit helps refugees get situated

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro | Winnipeg

As staff at Welcome Place in Winnipeg held a press conference Monday to discuss their "maxed out" services, one of their volunteer drivers was headed to the Port of Emerson to pick up five more asylum seekers who crossed the border overnight.

RCMP said Monday they intercepted 28 people illegally coming into Canada over the weekend. Since Jan. 1, police have intercepted 69 men, women and children.

Rita Chahal, executive director of Welcome Place, said she recently held a six-month-old baby and looked into the eyes of two- and four-year-olds kids who trekked across the border with their parents Saturday in hopes of getting to Winnipeg.

"When I saw the little kids, I always think about 'What if something had happened?' We don't want to see a situation like we've seen a couple years ago that brought all of us to our knees," she said, referring to the image of Alan Kurdi, a Syrian toddler whose body washed up on the shores of a beach in Turkey in 2015.

Rita Chahal, executive director of Winnipeg's Welcome Place, has asked the public and private sectors for fundraising help to assist the influx of refugees. JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

Welcome Place temporarily housed 21 asylum seekers they picked up from the border in their own facility on Bannatyne Avenue. Chahal said this is technically not allowed by the federal government, who only pay them to help government and privately-sponsored refugees. The refugee claimants will be moved to other locations in the community soon, including the Salvation Army.

But making the exception temporarily "wasn't a difficult choice for me," said Chahal.

"We have managed what might appear to be a crisis very quickly, very efficiently," she said. "We look at this from a very compassionate, from a humanitarian perspective. And when people come to our door and need our help, that's what we'll do. We'll help them."

Welcome Place is asking for financial donations from the public — not goods or food, which they don't have room to store.

The agency wants help from the city and province in finding temporary housing spaces for refugee claimants. Chahal said she spoke to Mayor Brian Bowman Monday about this, but had not yet heard from the province.

Jean Pierre Veregas, who works at Welcome Place, said the new arrivals have three days to make their refugee claims in Canada. They must gather documents and information that corroborates the last 10 years of their lives chronologically.

Law students from the University of Winnipeg have volunteered to help the surge of asylum seekers with their paperwork, said Welcome Place's Ermias Yoseph.

The Winnipeg Foundation stepped up with $33,000 in emergency funding for Welcome Place on Monday. Strategic projects associate Jennifer Partridge said $23,000 of the foundation's total came from an anonymous donor "who felt compelled and inspired to support the refugees."

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- To donate to Welcome Place and the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, visit miic.ca.
- Welcome Place and the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council help about 520 refugees per year.
- Money raised by the public will go toward finding more temporary housing spaces, hiring more staff and more.

Premier in talks with PMO

After a second weekend surge of asylum seekers crossed into Manitoba on foot, Premier Brian Pallister told media Monday his office is in talks with the prime minister's to determine safer solutions to border jumping.

"There has been a call to the prime minister on this issue... We've established an interdepartmental committee that is also investigating and researching ways to address this," Pallister said.

The premier said his first concern is the security of Manitobans, particularly those who live in Emerson and have been conflicted over whether to open their doors to asylum seekers making the treacherous trek into Canada in the freezing cold.

Many lawyers and organizations, including Amnesty International and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, have called for the Safe Third Country Agreement to be scrapped or revised.

The agreement has a loophole allowing asylum seekers to claim refugee status in the second safe country they've arrived in — Canada — if they aren't caught by border patrols before arriving.

NDP immigration critic Nahanni Fontaine has called on the provincial government to lobby Ottawa to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement.

"Many refugees in the U.S. do not feel safe given some of the recent developments, in particular the executive bans that were signed and executed by President Trump," Fontaine said.

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

Immigration board turns to triage to eliminate backlog

The Immigration and Refugee Board will begin to triage and refer old and new claims for shorter hearings in March in an attempt to reduce its ballooning backlog, or at least to stop it from snowballing.

Through flexible scheduling and shorter hearing streaming, the IRB hopes to increase the productivity of its 119 decision-makers by 15 to 20 per cent, said Paula Thompson, the board's chief of staff.

The redeployment, announced earlier in February, came on the heels of President Trump's anti-refugee policies and Canada's lifting of the visa requirements for Mexican travellers in December. However, Thompson said the board's move was not prompted by these events.

"There's no direct relationship with what's going on in the States," Thompson said. "So far we have seen a very negligible increase from Mexico."

Data showed the IRB received an average of 1,700 new claims a month from January to August last year, but the number has skyrocketed to 2,400 cases since. Currently, there are 19,000 claims in the backlog.

Under the new triage approach, claims will be screened for short hearings if the cases are straightforward and have no issues with the identity and credibility of the claimants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

5 REVEALING MOMENTS FROM THE TRUMP-TRUDEAU MEETING

1. A mutual peace pact
Trudeau's steadfast refusal to criticize Trump made news even in America. But just as notable was Trump's refusal to criticize Trudeau. The president was impassive even when prodded on live TV. Asked a question about the Canadian border and Trudeau's acceptance of Syrian refugees, Trump chose to tout his efforts to deport illegal immigrants — most of whom are Hispanics who live far from the 49th parallel.

2. A fair shake
Vladimir Putin has the shirtless horseback ride. Donald Trump has the intense handshake. At 70, the ferocious alpha-grip is how a president obsessed with dominance shows off his physical prowess. Trudeau, former drama teacher, came prepared for the performance.

3. Flynn left out
One key story out of the joint news conference was what wasn't asked: a question to Trump about National Security Advisor Michael Flynn over reports he discussed sanctions against Russia with Russia's ambassador before Trump took office, then lied about it. "HOW IS THERE NO FLYNN QUESTION!?!?!?!?!" MSNBC host Christopher Hayes wrote on Twitter. The answer: the White House made sure there was no Flynn question. The Canadian and U.S. media contingents each got to ask two questions. The Canadians drew names from someone's palm to decide which reporters got to do the asking. The American interlocutors were selected by Trump officials.

4. Almost normal
"We're guided by the same values," President Barack Obama said when welcoming Trudeau to the White House last year. "We share the same values," Trump said beside Trudeau on Monday.

The tone was not especially warm. There was an unprompted Trumpian ramble-boast about the size of his victory in the Electoral College. But the day was notable, in large part, for its boring conventionality.

5. Ivanka in charge
The Canadians had a stroke of strategic inspiration: get in Trump's good books by doing a kind of favour for his daughter. The executives who were part of a White House discussion on advancing female business leaders came away with praise for the joint initiative. Ivanka impressed the participating businesswomen with her thoughts. And then, after they left, she advertised herself — tweeting a photo of her at the president's desk, a progressive prime minister behind her. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LATE NEWS

Flynn quits as adviser
National-security adviser Michael Flynn resigned Monday night after reports he misled Trump administration officials about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

In his resignation letter, Flynn wrote that "because of the fast pace of events, I inadvertently briefed the vice-president elect and others with incomplete information."

He added that he was honoured to have served on the team behind what will "go down in history as one of the greatest presidencies in U.S. history."

Vice-president Mike Pence had previously vouched for Flynn.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Donald Trump extends his hand to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

BODY LANGUAGE

How it shook out

It's clear Canadians were watching Justin Trudeau and Donald Trump's first official meeting intently Monday morning, but who had the upper hand?

Trump, fast becoming the poster boy for awkward handshakes after an agonizing 19-second handshake with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is said to be self-conscious about how his hands are perceived.

Trudeau stepped out of his motorcade at the White House and immediately shook Trump's hand. This was to his benefit, according to Mark Bowden, an expert in human behaviour and body language who created the company Truthplane, a communication training company.

Trudeau and Trump were in close quarters, meaning the president couldn't pull the prime minister in, Bowden said.

"I think Trudeau for sure held his own," Bowden said.

But Trump wasn't done. He placed his hand on top of Trudeau's shoulder, another show of dominance. Trudeau responded in turn, placing his hand on Trump's arm.

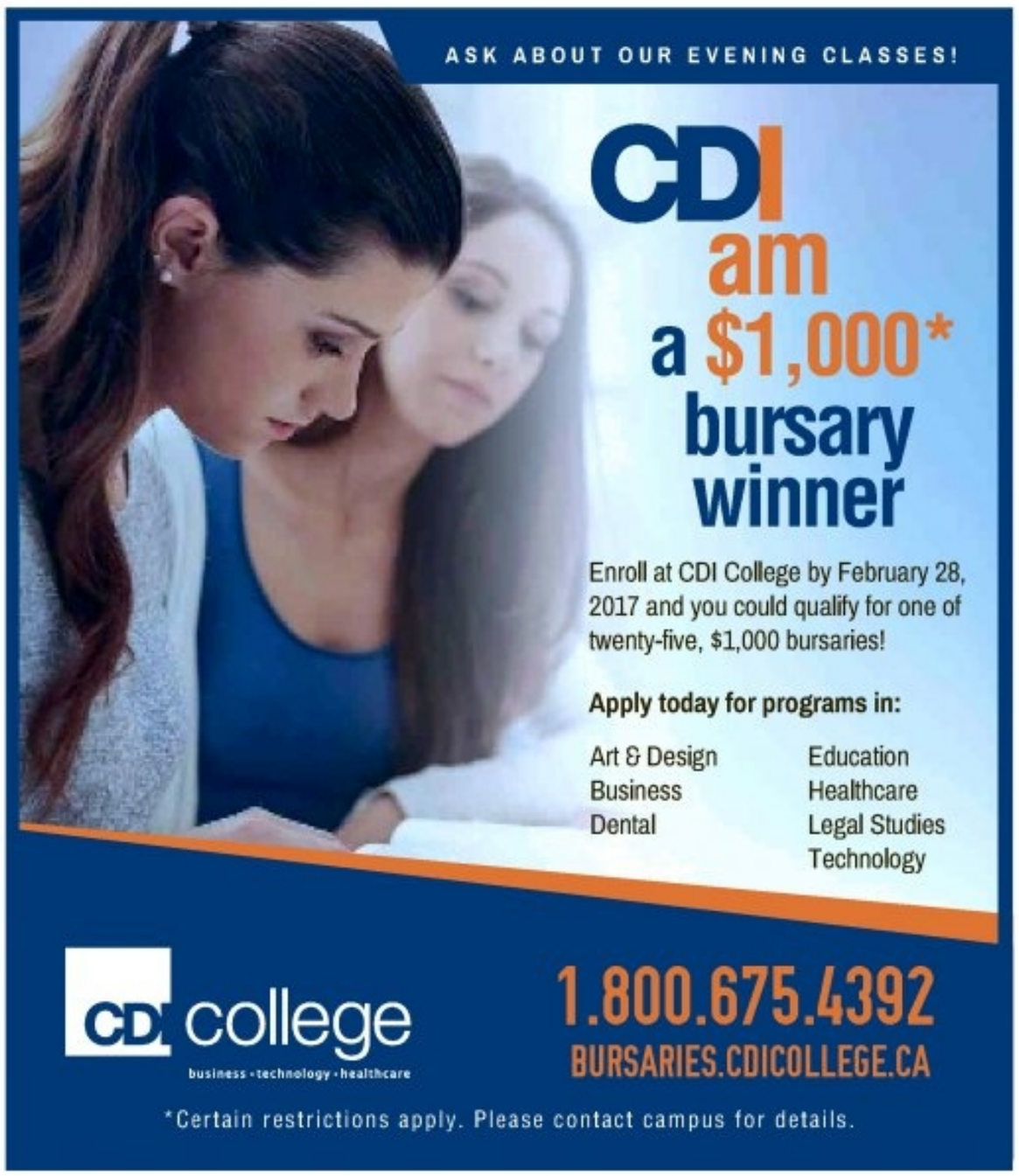
Later, while seated, they shook hands again. "What's interesting is Trump actually offers Trudeau the upper hand," Bowden said.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GLOBAL DIGEST

PAKISTAN
Valentine's Day banned in Islamabad
A Pakistani judge on Monday banned all Valentine's Day celebrations in the country's capital, Islamabad, saying they are against Islamic teachings.

The judge ruled on a petition seeking to ban public celebrations of the Western holiday, court official Niaz Saleh said. He said the order had been sent to Pakistan's media regulator to ensure a blackout on any Valentine's Day promotions in print or electronic media.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALIFORNIA
Evacuees may not go home until spillway repaired
Nearly 200,000 people ordered to leave their homes for fear a spillway could collapse may not be able to return until the barrier at the dam is fixed, a sheriff said Monday. Officials mulled using helicopters to drop rocks on the eroded spillway at Lake Oroville. AP



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Risks lurk as RRSP season approaches

MARKETS

Investors wary angry Trump tweet may hit their holdings

As investors head into RRSP season this year, stocks in Canada and the United States sit at or near record levels, but tensions are rising and that could mean volatile times for the markets.

Before the U.S. presidential election, many had predicted that a Trump win would send stock markets crashing. But the reverse happened. Markets cheered the election of the real estate mogul and charged ahead in the weeks following the vote. But the reality of the Trump administration has started to sink in and investors are becoming wary about what an angry tweet can do to their holdings.

Jurrien Timmer, director of global macro at Fidelity Investments, said Americans elected a "disrupter" and with that, the "game has changed."

"Since the 2009 bottom, post-the financial crisis, price has outperformed earnings in a very big way," he said.

"The question is, 'What are people going to be willing to pay for those earnings if we are faced with political and policy uncertainty?"'

Timmer said he expects the U.S. markets will do well because earnings are expected to grow, but the risk from uncharted political waters may mean that stock prices might not keep up with a rise in corporate profits.

Instead, Timmer is looking to European and emerging markets.

"I am increasingly of the opinion that the opportunities in 2017 are going to be outside of the U.S.," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

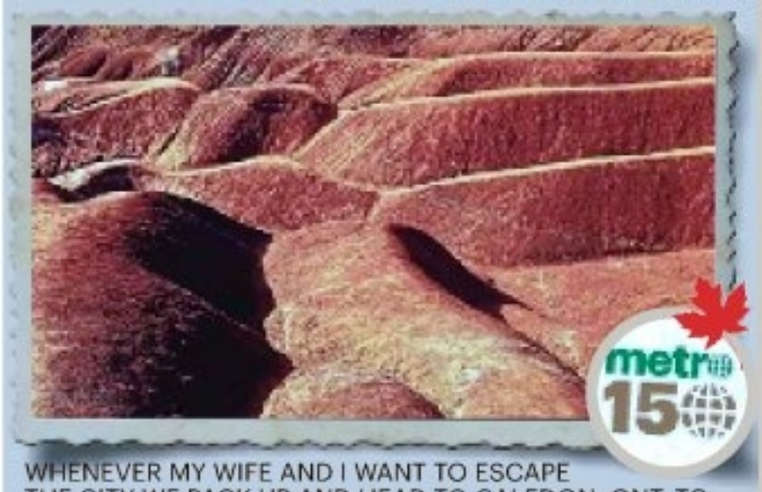
BY THE NUMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS FALLING DRASTICALLY

2008-09	16%	$22.5B
Two of the largest contribution declines were during the financial crisis and when tax-free savings accounts were introduced.	Drop in the number of annual RRSP contributors between 2000 and 2013 among those aged 25 to 54.	Total drop in value of RRSP contributions in 2013 compared with $30.6 billion in 2000 when measured in 2013 dollars.

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 14

CHELTENHAM BADLANDS



WHENEVER MY WIFE AND I WANT TO ESCAPE THE CITY WE PACK UP AND HEAD TO CALEDON, ONT. TO THE CHELTENHAM BADLANDS. THIS NATURAL SCENIC LANDSCAPE IS LIKE NO OTHER. WHETHER YOU GO ALONE, WITH A FRIEND OR THE WHOLE FAMILY THIS PLACE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT AT ANY TIME OF YEAR. **JOSEPH PARISELLI**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. You can get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. You can email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

RESTAURANTS

Tim Hortons eyes U.S. expansion

The parent company of Tim Hortons and Burger King sees fertile ground for rapid expansion for both chains in the United States.

The United States is "one of the biggest opportunities" for expanding the coffee and burger chains, said Daniel Schwartz, CEO of Restaurant Brands International Inc.

Tim Hortons had 683 U.S. locations as of Dec. 31, 2016. Burger King's U.S. operations had more than 7,000 restaurants as of Dec. 31, 2015.

RBI is also intent on rapidly expanding Tim Hortons around the world, signing three separate master franchise joint venture agreements to bring the chain to the Philippines, Britain and Mexico. The company expects to open the first locations this year, said chief financial officer Josh Kobza.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, February 14, 2017

PAUL WELLS ON TRUMP'S INSIDE CIRCLE

Trudeau could not have been signalling more clearly if he had brought navy crewmen with semaphore flags.

The photo wasn't a small thing. It was a token of insider status. It was Justin Trudeau's wristband.

On arriving at the White House on Monday for his first face-to-face meeting with Donald Trump, Justin Trudeau brought a gift, a framed print of a photo showing Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Donald Trump at a function in the Waldorf Astoria in 1981. The elder Trudeau was receiving the Family of Man Gold Medallion Award. Trump, then about 34 years old, was offering remarks at the podium. Both men were in tuxes.

Justin Trudeau's first telephone conversation with Trump was last Nov. 9, the day after he amazed the world by winning the electoral college and the presidency. Trump mentioned that he had met Trudeau's father back in the day and admired him. This was news to Justin Trudeau. But apparently detectives were put on the search, and photographic evidence was unearthed at Library and Archives Canada. Print, frame, Bob's your uncle.

Now here's why it matters: Donald Trump has spent his life dividing the world into people who deserve to get in and people who don't.

That's how he became the target, at 27, of a justice department lawsuit in 1973 that claimed he and his father refused to rent to black tenants. (The Trumps countersued; the eventual settlement included no admission of guilt.)

It's what Trump seeks to do along the Mexican border. It's why he keeps smacking his head against the courts and the U.S. Constitution as he seeks to close America's borders to visa-holders from seven predominately Muslim countries.

It's what he does with membership fees at Mar-a-Lago and other exclusive Trump clubs. It's what he has taken great pleasure in doing as he selects members of his cabinet.

By presenting Donald Trump with a print of this 1981 photo, Justin Trudeau signalled he has the secret handshake to enter the president's 'weird bunker, writes Paul Wells. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

If Trump decides you're not allowed in, you get nowhere with him. He mocks you on Twitter, makes policy just to spite you, summons the sputtering apparatus of the White House staff and the rickety machinery of government to shut you down, if any of them can manage the task.

But if he accepts you, you actually have some latitude with him. The most astonishing example so far is the way he let Gen. James Mattis do, once Mattis became his nominee as defence secretary, what nobody else had succeeded in doing: persuade Trump that torture is useless as an instrument of government policy.

Trump's attitude is summarized in the lyrics, at first comic and then haunting, of Paul Simon's recent single, "Wristband": "Wristband, my man, you've got to have a wristband/ If you don't have a wristband, my man, you don't get through the door."

Justin Trudeau decided early that he was better inside the door than out. Two pieces of political theatre yesterday were designed to get him in.

First, the photo. It shows that when Trump spins a random old yarn over the phone, Trudeau listens and acts. And it reminds Trump that two successive generations of Trudeaus have been the kind of people who could walk through the kind of door only Donald Trump can open. That's what a wristband does.

Second, the round table on women entrepreneurs with Ivanka Trump.

The president has been in open conflict with the Nordstrom department-store chain for a week because Nordstrom dropped Ivanka Trump's line of clothing and accessories. He has sent White House staffers out to plead her case, and castigate Nordstrom, on the news shows. In Canada, some are calling for a boycott of The Bay because the chain won't drop Ivanka Trump's merchandise.

And what does Trudeau do in the middle of all this? His office organizes an event with Ivanka Trump, sits with cabinet ministers and senior staff at a long table to hear her ideas, makes her the focus at midday of an international summit.

Trudeau could not have been signalling more clearly if he had brought navy crewmen with semaphore flags. Family is family. Trump's is welcomed and accepted, in the middle of a storm, just as Trudeau's father was accepted at some society shindig Trump attended a generation ago.

From this basis, miracles need not ensue and trouble is not banished. At their joint news conference, Trump seemed plainly bored by the bilateral issues the two had discussed, eager to change the subject to Mexicans or terrorism or Mike Flynn, his embattled national security adviser — who has his wristband, was welcomed inside the perimeter long ago, and whom Trump was therefore in a mood to defend.

Trudeau's gamble is that by getting in close to Trump — closer than many Canadians on the centre and left want him to get — he'll have voice and standing inside that weird bunker, for as long as Trump influences our two countries' shared life.

Paul Wells is a national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star.

All eyes were on Trudeau at a sit-down for women leaders in business hosted at the White House. AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

Feminist photo-op fail

Rosemary Westwood

When the world leader with the most enviable hair met the one with the least enviable comb-over, no bromance was to be expected.

Justin Trudeau campaigned (though hasn't exactly governed) on policies so progressive he was often photoshopped alongside a unicorn. Trump campaigned on rhetoric so divisive he became synonymous with Pepe the alt-right frog.

When the pair met Monday, Trudeau, in cliché Canadian form, was perfectly polite, avoiding criticism of the chaos-inducing travel ban and focusing on "middle class families."

It would have been a perfectly respectable, if slightly icky, meeting for Trudeau.

But on women, he blew it.

Working with the U.S. on economic issues makes sense. Offering the leading misogynist of the free world a cozy photo-op to make he and his administration appear pro-women? It's ill-informed, shows poor judgement and is exceedingly creepy.

By offering an olive branch in the form of a bilateral task force on women in business, Trudeau is lending what feminist cred he has left to a man whose pussy-grabbing spawned an international hat trend and sparked the Women's March, arguably one of the largest protests in U.S. history.

And Trudeau's efforts are also wholly useless.

The idea that a Republican-controlled Congress will make meaningful efforts to improve child care or fund maternity leave is laughable, to say nothing of addressing the systemic sexism.

This is the party of the North Dakota lawmaker who suggested Sunday mornings are when wives serve husbands breakfast in bed. The same party pushing in Oklahoma to make a man's consent mandatory for all abortions.

For decades, Republicans have fought women-friendly workplace reforms, hiding sexist ideologies under a pro-business guise.

Even Trump's proposed tax-break plan for child care has been debunked as a move that would enrich comfortable families and do little to help poor ones.

"We just had a very productive meeting with women business leaders ... where we discussed how to secure everything that we know — the full power of women, can do better than anybody else," Trump said — unintelligibly — in a press conference Monday.

But the message was clear: "I care about women!" he was saying, as Trudeau smiled on like a nutritionist who jumped into bed with the soft drink lobby.

And just as doomed.

Rosemary Westwood relocated from Canada to the U.S. She chronicles her observations in a weekly column for Metro.

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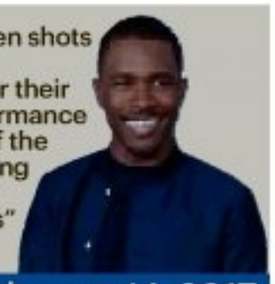
Your essential daily news

Tuesday, February 14, 2017



Frank Ocean has taken shots at producers of the Grammy Awards over their criticism of his performance at the 2013 edition of the show as "faulty," saying that he experienced "technical difficulties" during the song.

Venue booked, dress ordered – proposal ETA?

Katherine North and her fiancé Waheed Obaidi took a pragmatic approach to their wedding plans. Hoping to spend less than $10,000 and save money for an exotic trip or a new car instead, they had everything booked before Obaidi even proposed. CONTRIBUTED

NEW AGE NUPTIALS

Millennials part with traditions in the move towards event weddings

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Katherine North, 30, can't wait for her wedding day. Her dress has been ordered. Her bridesmaids planned a bachelorette. The save-the-dates went out. She and her partner booked a venue in October, 2016. All that was missing was the proposal.

After attending a season full of weddings at hotels and golf courses, their decision to marry at an Ottawa restaurant came down to a desire to do something a bit different, she said. But more importantly, they wanted to be pragmatic: with average wedding costing couples $31,000, she and her fiancé knew they didn't want to spend a lot of money on their nuptials.

The restaurant — Salt — was within their price range for the meal, and meant they saved money on decor, the ceremony fee and even music. It had an opening for the upcoming June long weekend, but the space was booking up fast.

"We said, why not — we didn't want to miss an opportunity," she says.

The fact that he hadn't yet proposed wasn't of concern — they both knew he would. Just before her birthday in January, he dropped to one knee and asked her to marry him. Of course, she said yes.

She's part of a growing trend of millennials writing their own rule books when it comes to weddings. While 66 per cent of couples are opting for more traditional affairs, one in three prefer less formal and more unique ceremonies, one 2015 survey from bridal magazine Wedding Bells found.

Gone is the cookie-cutter recipe for a wedding: From destination weddings that eschew the tropics (a ceremony in Iceland, anyone?) to the bride dropping to one knee (it's 2017!) to cakeless meals, young adults want a ceremony that is uniquely them.

Many are looking to create exceptional experiences for their guests, says Markham, Ont.-based Tracey Manailescu, co-founder of The Wedding Planner's Institute of Canada and a wedding planner.

For many of her clients, the entire wedding is meant to be an event guests will always remember — something that stands out from the crowd of other ceremonies they might have had to attend in the past. For some, that means opting out of certain expensive traditions to put money elsewhere.

> **I'll probably pick up some flowers from Loblaws or something.**
> Katherine North, bride to be

She points to a couple of her clients choosing inexpensive dress from stores like Le Chateaux or Forever 21, and instead putting that money into a more robust bar or live entertainment (acrobats are a hot act in the wedding space right now, she says). "They're finding other ways to save money to create that experience," she says.

While not cheaper than weddings in tropical locations, she's also helped plan ceremonies for people in more unique locales, like Iceland or Italy. The parties tend to be smaller to help contain costs, but in the end, it's a different type of experience for the guest, she says.

Halifax-based Katelyn Hipson, CEO and creative director of elegant productions planning and design, concurs. Her guests are skipping certain traditions entirely, like the wedding cake or the extended family shindigs. "My clients are less inclined to spend money in areas that don't matter to them just for the sake of tradition."

For North, who is trying to keep her budget under $10,000, she and her fiancé figure they can spend their money on things, like a new car or an exotic trip.

"I'll probably pick up some flowers from Loblaws or something — we'll keep things simple," she says. "It's my wedding. I don't want to have to stress about it."

SEXUAL HEALTH

Study explores HIV trends in major Canadian cities

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

A new study of more than 2,400 men across Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto hopes to shed some light on why HIV rates are so high among gay and bisexual men in those cities compared to the rest of Canada.

Over the next four years researchers will do HIV and sexually transmitted infection testing, as well as distribute qualitative questionnaires in what they're calling "Engage."

They want get at attitudes towards the disease and access to healthcare in the face of massive changes in the treatment and prevention of HIV over the past three decades, said Trevor Hart, one of the lead researchers and a clinical psychologist.

"This is going to be one of the largest studies of its kind, examining how a lot of the changes that have taken place around HIV are affecting both sexual behaviour and mental and physical health and wellbeing," he said.

To find those who've been underrepresented in other studies, like trans men and people of colour, researchers will get men to recruit others in their social networks, from Grindr — a dating app — to volleyball leagues.

Most of the members of the research team are gay and bisexual men themselves, Hart noted, and the goal is to both inform future heath policy and include the community in future discussions, instead of treating them like "guinea pigs."

While some may move to big cities like Toronto and Vancouver to get better HIV care, Hart said it is "concerning" that rates are still so high among gay and bisexual men in urban centres.

Cameron Dunkin, manger of research at the Canadian Foundation For AIDS Research (CANFAR), one of the funders of the study, said there is sometimes a "sense of lackadaisicalness" about the virus.

"You do have some apathy sometimes where people just aren't as afraid of HIV because there's medication and the assumption that they'll be fine and it doesn't really matter if they contract it," he said.

16%

Estimate of the proportion of gay, bi, and other men who have sex with men living with HIV in Vancouver.

SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA, 2011

GO AHEAD, IT'S SELF-CARE MINDLESS CONSUMPTION BY ANY OTHER NAME

Well, the state of the world is anxiety provoking as of late. When that happens, the responsible thing to do is what I call "little acts of self-pampering"
TIME FOR A SELF-HUG
The problem comes when I BEGIN TO LOSE CONTROL.
THIS CAKE WILL NUMB MY EMOTIONS
It could be relaxing in a nice bubble bath. Or eating a small piece of dark chocolate...
When I don't realize I'm overdoing it.
JUST PUT THESE ON MY CREDIT CARD!!
Buying a fit something nice...
JOURNALS
When I'm avoiding reality through mindless consumption
I DON'T REMEMBER WHO I AM...
Indulging myself on some kind of guilty pleasure...
- Funny videos - Puppies - Memes
At that point, I know the responsible thing to do is go and find healthier coping strategies. Because I REFUSE to let self-care turn into self-destruction!!
Avi Castillo

Self-love on V-Day

ADVICE

Five simple tips for indulging yourself on this — or any — day

Ali Vanderkruyk
For Metro Canada

Whether you're in a relationship or not, take a break and practice self-care this Valentine's Day.

Girl Crush, an intersectional feminist speaker series in Toronto wants to counteract the material pressures of the international day for loved-up couples by suggesting people to spend a little time on themselves.

In the words of the co-organizers, Kate Barss and Temma Pinkofsky: "Self-care is recognizing the critical importance of giving permission within our daily lives to look after ourselves."

"As female-identifying individuals, the burden of care often falls on us to look after the physical and emotional needs of others. The idea of self-care asks us to work towards and make space for recognizing our own needs," they continue.

Here are five suggestions on ways to practice self-care this Valentine's Day, and for that matter, every other day:

1. Expect a little less
Dial down your expectations for yourself for one day. Give yourself space to feel grief, anger, frustration, and helplessness.

Then, take time to realize that this is not all of your reality. Remind yourself what brings you joy; tell a friend you love them. Go for a long walk and rediscover the beauty of your neighborhood.

2. Make you the focus
Cancel a plan you do not want to go to and plan an activity for yourself: take a bath, put on clothes (or take off clothes) that make you feel sexy and take a photo (just for you), masturbate, go to a movie, read a book, dance.

3. The big switch off
Take a conscious break from social media. Close your laptop; turn off your phone. Being informed does not mean you have to be plugged into a feed 24/7.

4. Rest...rest well
Simple pleasures are the best — Go to sleep early.

5. Calming connections
Allow others the space to self-care. Connect with people who share your concern about what is happening in our country and our world. Talk to people who may be going through a difficult time, especially members of vulnerable or marginalized communities. Let them know you support them. Smile at strangers.

ACADEMY AWARDS

Try to spare a little love for La La Land

Peter Howell
Torstar News Service

Emma Stone picked up a BAFTA Sunday for her role in La La Land but the movie is in the firing line. CHRIS JACKSON/ GETTY IMAGES

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, maybe we could spare a little love for La La Land. People keep beating up on it.

I know what you're thinking: "Is this guy nuts? Hasn't this movie been showered with love?"

True enough, numerically speaking: La La Land is nominated for a record-matching 14 Oscars for the Feb. 26 Academy Awards, among them Best Picture, Best Director (Damien Chazelle), Best Actress (Emma Stone) and Best Actor (Ryan Gosling).

This musical valentine to Hollywood has two Oscar noms for Best Original Song: City of Stars and Audition (The Fools Who Dream). It's so acclaimed, it's competing against itself.

The film has been taking home the gold at pre-Oscar events, among them the Golden Globes, the Critics' Choice Awards and, just this past weekend, the BAFTAs. The film is also scoring at the box office, with worldwide ticket sales expected to reach or even surpass $300 million (U.S.) by Oscar night.

Anecdotally, however, it's a different story. I can't remember a year where the Oscar front-runner has attracted so much negativity in advance of awards night.

Many people, including friends, family, co-workers and readers, have told me they think my four-star review of La La Land was too generous. They either don't like the film or they're just "meh" on it. A lot of people really don't seem to like this movie, and it's apparently an act of bravery to admit it — a recent Saturday Night Live sketch riffed on abusing a La La Land naysayer.

(For the record, I love La La Land. But I'm hoping Moonlight, which I love more, wins Best Picture — and also Best Director for Barry Jenkins.)

I hear two main complaints about La La Land:

1. Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling can't dance;

2. Ryan Gosling can't sing. (Emma's pipes seem to get a pass.)

These complaints are usually voiced along with the observation that Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were all better dancers and/or singers than Stone and Gosling. And the film is constantly being slammed in other media, often by people who aren't movie critics, such as the acerbic Bill Maher, host of HBO's political chat show, Real Time.

"La La Land, really?" he said this past weekend. "It's just so narcissistic. Another movie about movies. About us."

A writer in The Wall Street Journal, Jeanne Safer, found the love story wanting, stating that "its denouement depends on an utterly improbable plot twist."

I humbly submit that a lot of people are missing the point about La La Land.

It's not meant to be a slavish copy of Singin' in the Rain, An American in Paris, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg or all those other classic movie musicals that inspired writer/director Chazelle and composer Justin Hurwitz.

Yes, Stone and Gosling are great actors and only passable dancers and singers. But they're charming in the context of La La Land, which is more about the cost of ambition than it is about the pursuit of love.

Their characters, Mia and Sebastian, are bursting with the desire to create something and make their mark. That something may or may not be a lasting romance and that mark may or may not follow Cupid's arrow.

They sing and dance because the spirit moves them to, not because they're trying to prove anything. They're not supposed to be song-and-dance professionals: Mia's a dramatic actress and Sebastian's a jazz pianist.

Far from being "utterly improbable," I'd argue that the story of La La Land is highly probable, if you know Hollywood.

Maybe that's all the more reason why we should show the film some Valentine love, even if it is set to sweep the Oscars later this month. You never know if a Hollywood story will have a Hollywood ending.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

When Trump goes low, satirists go high

THE SHOW: The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, Feb. 9 (CBS)
THE MOMENT: The 10-minute opening

"I'm sure you guys keep up on what's happening," host Stephen Colbert began Thursday night. The joke was, no one can keep up: Ten-plus minutes later, he was still recapping.

Story one: Elizabeth Warren was silenced on the US Senate floor. "Hush mob leader Mitch McConnell added, 'Would it kill her to smile? She's so much prettier when she smiles,'" Colbert riffed.

Story two: Donald Trump complained that Nordstrom's dropped his daughter Ivanka's fashion line — from his POTUS Twitter account. "This is insane," Colbert said, not even trying to joke. "You can't use the power of the office of the president to protect a family business."

Story three: Kellyanne Conway defended Trump's untruths on CNN ("Are they more important than the things he says that are true?" she asked). "Officer," Colbert mocked her, "many times when I drive I'm not drunk. Why don't you pull me over then?"

Story four: the court decision on Trump's travel ban was about to come down. "I'm Tevo-ing democracy," Colbert said, "so don't tell me how it ends."

Six months ago, any one of those stories would have filled an entire monologue. But Trump-World is so outrageous, Colbert has to race from punchline to punchline. Still, his monologue takes up a quarter of his show.

It's a boom time for satirists. Colbert's political savvy pushed his ratings past Jimmy Fallon's for the first time since he went on the air in September 2015. SNL and Samantha Bee are killing it. When Trump goes low, their numbers go high.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Donald Trump has kept Stephen Colbert and other late-night satirists very busy. GETTY IMAGES

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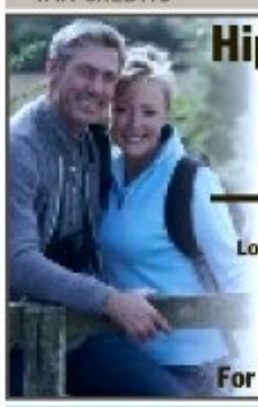

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Boycott blizzard moves over Netflix

RACIAL AWARENESS

Dear White People rankles — but it hasn't even aired yet

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Our golden age of politically motivated boycotting continues, and this time it's Netflix in the crosshair.

The streaming service landed on the American Conservatism naughty list after debuting a teaser trailer for their original series, Dear White People.

There is little in the short 30-second clip aside from an introduction to a main character and her advice that dressing up in blackface is inadvisable at best. However, other viewers say something entirely different.

Dear White People is based on a same-named 2014 film by series creator Justin Simien.

The movie satirized the culture created on the campuses of America's most prestigious universities, where the student bodies are overwhelmingly white.

Netflix's new series Dear White People debuts on April 28 but is already upsetting conservatives. CONTRIBUTED

Unsurprisingly, the film drew a similarly venomous reception when it was first released and Simien addressed that in an open letter posted to Medium over the weekend after #BoycottNetflix began bubbling up.

"Self doubt is a constant companion for a chubby, gay, black boy born in the south," Simien wrote. "Daring to make a films of any kind and thus invite the possibility of ridicule was an internal battle of mine for many years.

"I hadn't yet realized the poring over YouTube comments and measuring the dislike to like ratios on our trailers was killing me from the inside-out," he added.

"Every comment from someone who hadn't bothered to look at the materials or read the reviews in lieu of calling me a racist based on the film's title was like a tiny knife stab in the heart," Simien said.

The rest of the letter goes on to explain his reasoning for the provocative title and some of the real life events that inspired the project.

Simien reveals that he had (and heard) many doubts about the title that has rankled so many in the more reactionary corners of the internet, but settled on Dear White People because it was "the kind of thing that made you sit up and go 'What is THIS going to be?'"

Well, people certainly sat up and noticed. However, a lot of them didn't stick around for the second part of Simien's thought.

But, with Netflix standing behind him, the artist remains resolute.

"Even though I have the wherewithal to recognize their hatred as just a knee jerk attempt to avoid experiencing the deep pain of feeling powerless, I'll be damned if I allow for someone else's pain to become my prison," he wrote.

"That particular American tradition had been endured by enough generations."

Dear White People debuts on Netflix April 28.

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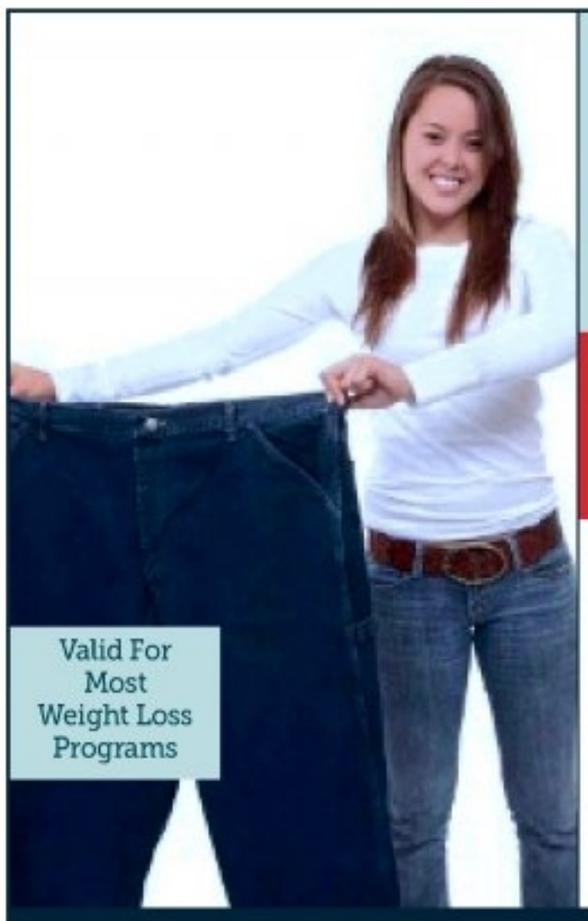

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Pleasant year-round temperatures without the threat of hurricanes. A cost of living that's three times lower than Canada's. Affordable health care. It's no wonder Canadians are buying real estate in Ecuador.

Purchasing property here is also easy and affordable compared to other sun destinations. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place," says Gordon Poole, vice president of HolaEcuador, a Canadian company developing properties in the South American country. HolaEcuador is in its seventh year helping Canadians acquire property on Ecuador's Pacific Coast for financial investment and retirement. "Currently, we're working on a beautiful 130-acre oceanfront property located 60 kilometres south of Manta, the regional capital. Of the 1,700 lots in the development, only about 400 are still available for purchase," says Poole.

Lots start at just $23,113 (U.S.), and a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home starts at $72,345 (U.S.). "The country is among the safest in Latin America, and the currency is the U.S. dollar, which is very reassuring for investors," Poole adds. "With HolaEcuador, buyers have the benefit of signing a Canadian contract with a Canadian company and they are assured that they will own their deed outright." The HolaEcuador team helps investors choose their lot, guides them through construction, and helps with extras like relocation and immigration in a country with accessible residency status.

The company's latest development currently has over 200 completed homes, with more construction underway. "A beautiful outdoor sports facility is now operational, businesses are beginning to set up shop and the parks are simply breathtaking," says Poole. "A few years from now, this little slice of heaven will be the envy of investors who didn't seize the opportunity."

Ecuador is ranked among the world's best real-estate investments. CONTRIBUTED

Move to paradise

HolaEcuador is hosting free info seminars across Canada in the coming weeks. Representatives from the HolaEcuador team will discuss the development, the benefits of owning property in Ecuador and financial planning for a purchase. For more information and to register for a seminar, visit hola-ecuador.ca or call toll-free 1 (855) 653-8479.

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New Westminster, B.C. *– Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Inn at the Quay, 900 Quayside Dr.*

Vancouver, B.C. *– Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Best Western plus Chateau Granville, 1100 Granville St.*

Calgary, Alta. *– Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Aloft Calgary University, 2359 Banff Trail NW*

Edmonton, Alta. *– Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m., Four Points Gateway, 10010 12 Ave. SW*

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Tennis umpire Arnaud Gabas had surgery on a fractured bone under his left eye after being hit by a ball struck by Canadian Denis Shapovalov

Spring in Jays' step

A large portion of the headlines the Blue Jays made over the off-season centred around the inability to re-sign slugger Edwin Encarnacion. Toronto was able to retain Jose Bautista, however, and the reunion could pay big dividends for player and team alike. Here are five other storylines to watch as pitchers and catchers report to the Jays' spring training facility in Dunedin, Fla., Tuesday.

1 They're set

Toronto's top asset is its starting pitching. Boston's off-season addition of ace left-hander Chris Sale may have made the Red Sox early favourites to repeat as AL East champions, but it's the Blue Jays who boast arguably the league's best rotation. The staff is led by reigning AL ERA champion Aaron Sanchez and 20-game winner J.A. Happ, with Marcus Stroman, Marco Estrada and Francisco Liriano rounding out a strong starting five.

2 They're not

Toronto lost two veteran relievers over the winter, with left-hander Brett Cecil leaving for St. Louis and right-hander Joaquin Benoit moving to Philadelphia. Shortly before spring training, the Blue Jays beefed up their bullpen by signing left-hander J.P. Howell and right-hander Joe Smith to handle the innings ahead of veteran setup man Jason Grilli and dependable closer Roberto Osuna.

GETTY IMAGES

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 New look

Wary of missing out on their preferred alternatives after Encarnacion turned them down, the Blue Jays acted swiftly to sign DH Kendrys Morales to a three-year, $33-million contract, then gave 1B/OF Steve Pearce a two-year, $12.5-million deal. Toronto targeted the switch-hitting Morales to help balance a lineup that was right-handed heavy in 2016.

GETTY IMAGES

4 Prized prospect

Toronto's most intriguing off-season move was the signing of Cuban prospect Lourdes Gurriel Jr. to a seven-year, $22-million contract. The younger brother of Astros infielder Yulieski Gurriel and the son of a Cuban baseball great, the 23-year-old will likely start the season at Double-A, where he is expected to get regular time at shortstop.

GETTY IMAGES

5 On deck

With few position battles in play, the Blue Jays will spend spring training sorting out bullpen roles and settling on a backup to catcher Russell Martin, with minor-league signing Jarrod Saltalamacchia the most likely candidate. Gibbons and his staff will also have to decide who to bat in the leadoff spot. After walking 87 times in 517 plate appearances during the regular season last year, Bautista moved up from third to hit leadoff in Toronto's final three playoff games. If Bautista doesn't get the job, it could go to second baseman Devon Travis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LISETTE POOLE/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Younger Sandusky arrested on child sex charges

One of Jerry Sandusky's sons was charged Monday with sex crimes involving two girls, more than five years after the former Penn State assistant coach was himself first arrested on child molestation charges.

Jeffrey S. Sandusky, 41, was charged by state police and arraigned by a district judge in Bellefonte, Pa., on 14 counts. He was jailed on $200,000 bail.

Police accused him of soliciting naked photos from a then-16-year-old girl last year and seeking oral sex in 2013 from her then-15-year-old sister.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UConn rolls to its 100th consecutive victory

Gabby Williams scored a career-high 26 points and Napheesa Collier added 18 to help top-ranked UConn to its 100th consecutive victory with a 66-55 win over No. 6 South Carolina on Monday night.

The Huskies last lost on Nov. 17, 2014, at Stanford.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man City take over second place in England

Manchester City got goals from Raheem Sterling and Tyrone Mings, and overcame Gabriel Jesus' early departure because of injury to beat Bournemouth 2-0 and climb to second place in the English Premier League, eight points behind Chelsea on Monday.

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Fragrant Faux Pho

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Warm up with a bowl of bright flavour in this quick and easy Vietnamese noodle soup.

Ready in 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp fresh ginger, minced
- 6 oz rice vermicelli (half of most packages)
- 3 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup water
- 14 oz can of coconut milk
- 3/4 lb of chicken breast, thinly sliced
- 6 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 3 Tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tsp sugar
- Handful of cilantro
- Handful of bean sprouts
- 1 cup julienned carrots
- 1 cup julienned red pepper

Directions

1. In a large pot, warm up vegetable oil and sauté garlic and ginger until translucent and fragrant. Add stock, coconut milk and water and bring to a simmer. Add chicken and cook for 20 minutes.

2. While that's happening, soak noodles in luke-warm water in a large bowl. Once the chicken has been cooking for 20 minutes, add the noodles and stir. Add the lime, fish sauce and sugar. Taste to check seasoning.

3. Serve in large bowls and top with fresh carrots, sprouts, peppers and cilantro.

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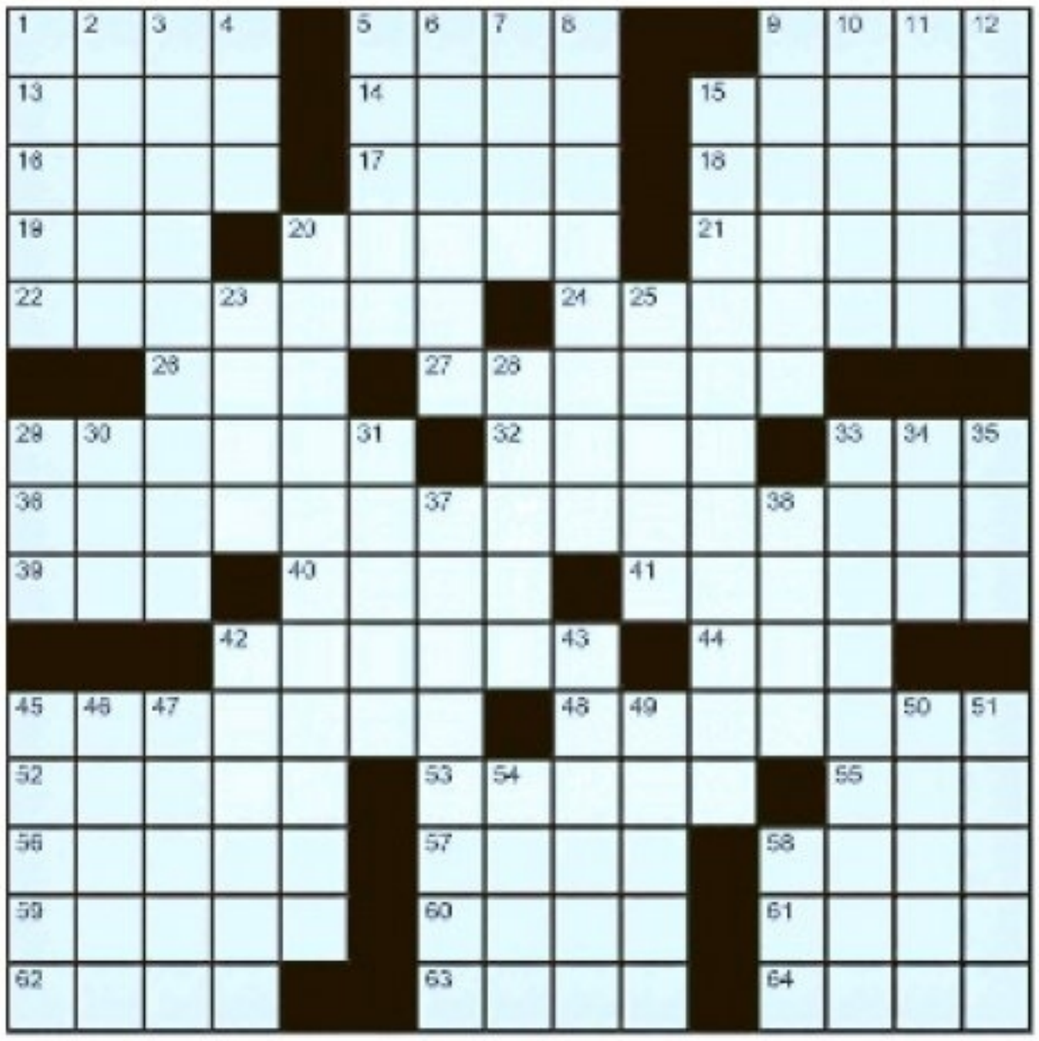
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Brent Spiner's 'Star Trek: TNG' character
5. Unchanged: 2 wds.
9. Gentlewoman
13. It means 'the same' in Latin
14. Skype for Business' former name
15. Wife of #53-Across
16. Ethereal
17. Emerald _ (Ireland)
18. Capital of Ethiopia, _ Ababa
19. Neither here _ there
20. Chief Teutonic god
21. Holds on property
22. Inane
24. On the loose: 2 wds.
26. Bon _ (High society)
27. Ms. Ross of "Happy Days"
29. Teem/overflow
32. Annoy
33. US broadcasting regulator
36. Montreal Canadien known as 'Boom Boom': 2 wds.
39. "Pick a card, _ card..."
40. Vegas light
41. Musical, Miss _
42. Fiona, in 'Shrek' movies
44. "Rain _" (1988)
45. Military greetings
48. Inutile
52. Commonplace
53. _ the Horrible
55. The Guess _
56. Space shadow
57. Iridescent gem
58. Groom-to-be's party
59. Montreal _ (Where the Canadiens once played)
60. Mr. Griffin
61. "King _" (2005)
62. Ms. Drescher
63. Greek war goddess
64. Pac-Man's blue ghost

DOWN
1. Roman mythology huntress
2. "Farewell!"
3. Yukon, for one
4. Ms. Poehler
5. In the Skin of _ _ (Novel by Canadian author Michael Ondaatje)
6. Method
7. "Drinking _ _ _" by Bran Van 3000
8. Worst-case _
9. Middle of the highway
10. Red _ (Tree in British Columbia)
11. Anti-_ serum
12. Canadian chanteuse, Julie _ (Corey Hart's wife)
15. Hockey Honour... #36-Across since having been inducted in 1972: 3 wds.
20. Stanley Cup: Montreal Canadiens, for example, in 1953: 2 wds.
23. Adjective's follower
25. Petty quarrels
28. Final prayer words
29. Camel hair garment
30. England: Big ticker by the Thames
31. Tractors-maker John
33. Nabisco cookie physicist Isaac would like: 2 wds.
34. Murmur
35. Larry King's old station
37. Returns to one's residence: 2 wds.
38. Money in Oman
42. Sprint faster
43. Sweet as treats
45. Over-gorge
46. _ All (Car care brand)
47. The Balance
49. Barrage on the battlefield
50. Cut of meat
51. Wet
54. "Does anyone have _ _?" (Bic-less query)
58. Schuss

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Talk to someone older or more experienced today if you are dealing with a group of people or if you are defining your future goals. This person's input will be helpful.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today because they see you as reliable, conscientious and dependable. Continue to make this great impression so you make your life easier!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will be surprised how easy it is to study something or learn something new today. Even if you travel somewhere, it will be a learning experience for you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to settle matters regarding money disputes, shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. You won't overlook details, and you'll be realistic.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone older or more experienced might give you excellent advice today. Time spent with an older friend will be to your advantage.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's easy to work hard today, because you have goals and you don't mind putting in the effort. You see the value of "no pain, no gain." It's all character building.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day to teach children something valuable that they need to learn. It's also a good day to practice a technique in sports or the arts.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A family discussion with someone older and wiser will benefit you today. Think about practical ways to secure your home for the future.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your powers of concentration are excellent today. Your style of working will be thorough and careful; you won't overlook details. This is a good day to make plans for the future.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will want to buy long-lasting, practical items only. You have respect for your hard-earned money!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you're willing to work because you can see the benefit of hard work not only for immediate results, but also for the great impression you create on others in the future. Get down to it!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful day for research of any kind. You won't stop until you find what you're looking for. And you won't miss anything, either.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

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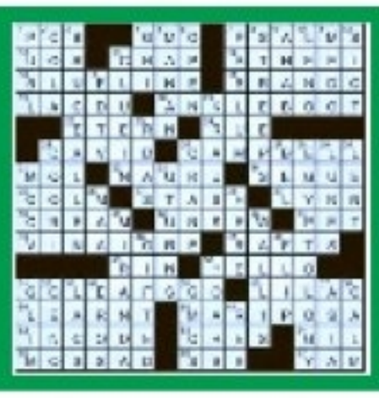

4	2	9	3	6	1	7	5	8
7	3	5	9	4	8	1	6	2
1	8	6	7	2	5	4	9	3
8	4	3	1	9	6	5	2	7
5	6	2	4	8	7	3	1	9
9	7	1	2	5	3	8	4	6
6	1	4	8	3	9	2	7	5
3	9	7	5	1	2	6	8	4
2	5	8	6	7	4	9	3	1

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